Historic Appomattox Gave
Unity and Peace to America

TIMES-VIRGINIAN

A Growing Newspaper
In A Growing Town

A LIVE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER AT HISTORIC APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE VIRGINIA

OLUME 68 NUMBER 1 | APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA, THURSDAY JANUARY 7, 1960 | Subscription Rate: $2 per year

Father Darkleaf

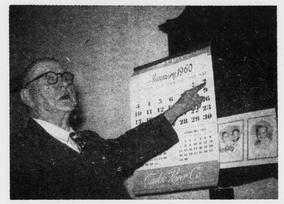
by c. h. r.

Somehow, I always go for a story f a guy with ambition who gets ead. I had much rather write bout that, than to report some ime or trouble someone has got- n into. Maybe the Teen-agers call The Go-Go. Anyway, I was down Norfolk, Va. Mother Brightleaf as staying all week at the Monti- ello Hotel attending a State U. C. meeting, and I had driven own to fetch her home. After I ot the car parked and was ready to ad up her badges and such. I had wait a spell. And so it was that walked up Granby Street, Heav- as to Betsy! I remembered Old orn in Norfolk at about midnight, ec. 21, 1905. So, I strolled along, ooking at this and that: many amiliar store names and such. And few blocks up Granby, I saw, still n business the Wells Theatre. The rst movie I ever saw, was shown n that theatre! But, then some- hing happened. I was feeling pret- y good at seeing old familiar scenes nd, I am here to tell you, of a odden I came upon the dang-busted- est thing I have ever seen! A crowd f over 100 people were gathered n a Granby St. corner. I am sh- ld "elbow-buster" so I barged in ntil I got to the front. So help me, an old Colored Man was putting n a SHOW! Oh, Betsy, touch the typewriter keys! Let me write it out pretty and smooth! This man was, I would say, about 20 years older than Father D kleaf. He ad had rigged up a contraption to end all contraptions. It would outdo, undo and overdo all gadgets. It was big about eight feet tall and six feet across. And it had platforms all over, and painted to beat any- thing you ever saw. And on all these platforms were carved figures of Dynamite Pete and Swinging Sue or some such named characters, and they were all arranged so that when the operator banged his foot on a pedal they would dance, Ah, yes, and how he made them dance. He had a drum for his other foot, to hit off the music tempo, and in one hand he had a snare drum, and then with the free hand he would punch horns, ring bells, and work all man- ner of contrivances into the gosh- wondrous music only a natural- born artist can fashion. And for his mouth he had a sort of instrument, goodness knows what — but sound- ed like a combination of a saxa- phone and harmonica (Lay That Harmonica Down, Alvin), and so- cordian. What music he got out of this set up, and he worked it all to a tune, and all these dozens of marionettes were dancing all the place, and he had old Turkey In The Straw going so hot I could have died happy just to listen. The figures of Sambo and Susie Q were dancing away, the crowd was in a magic spell. Cha-Cha, Mambo, and Charleston: you name it, he had it going. And then the old fellow just got tuckered out, and every- one was limp, and everything came to a halt. I was the one who broke the silence, for I felt that something should be done about it. I barged up front and tossed two-bits onto his drum. Others got the idea, and soon the Old Fellow roused up, at the sight of glorious reward for his ef- forts, and ere we could get set, he opened up with: "Are You From Dixie." Oh, glory be. So help me, I would have led Picketts Charge! Feet were patting all up and down the sidewalk of historic old Granby! Leave that I had to go back to the Monticello and get Mother Bright- leaf and return to my country cit- izen's chores. But this one time I did not fuss about the hotel bill, for having had to drive 200 miles to bring Mother Brightleaf home from a U. D. C. convention. I had my money's worth! Ialways say, if you've got something, the world will beat a path to your door.

Busy Car Thief

Pittsburgh.- Police arrested John James as he was siphoning gasoline from a car parked on the street. Un- der questioning, he said he stole the car, but it broke down. He stole a second car to push the first one, but it ran out of gasoline. He then tried to steal gasoline from a third car to push the second.

Local Jeweler Passes 80th Bir hday



Above: L. M. Wilkes, local jeweler, takes a look at the date January 2, on a wall calendar in his jewelry store here. The date marked his 80th birthday. (Photo by Calvin Robinson)

By Calvin Robinson

A lot of water can and does flow under the bridge of life in eighty years. But for Lacy Morton Wilkes, veteran Appomattox County citizen, his eighty years have been good and rewarding ones, and as his recent 80th birthday arrived, he stands in high esteem among his fellowmen.

Not that he figures on retiring. Goodness, no! He didn't even take time out to celebrate his 80th birth- day. And when your writer inter- viewed him this week, he was busy at work repairing a customer's glasses. That's the way he likes it. He knows that the secret of success in life is hard work and thrifty man- agement.

Mr. Wilkes was born January 2, 1880, on a farm about three miles west of Evergreen, this county. In those days, school opportunities were on the scarce side, but when Lacy Morton was 14 years old, he enroll- ed in the Bush Fork Schoool near Evergreen. Miss Mattie Coleman was the teacher. She was a good teacher, but one day was the extent of Lacy Morton's formal schooling. After that one eventful day, he went to work on his own, and has made his own way ever since,, and successfully, too.

The year was 1894. The young lad made what he though was a good trade. He swapped an auger to Mr. Tom Trent for an old clock. Wilkes figured he could get the clock in running shape. Then the late Mr. Henry Woolridge had a timepiece, and he was willing to spend twenty- five cents to have it repaired. Young Wilkes did the job, and of the pay, spent fifteen cents to have a black- smith, John Martin, make him a special pair of "nippers" or pliers, Mr. Wilkes still has that pair of pliers.

That Lacy Morton could work on watches and clocks got noted about, and the next customer brought him a watch. Wilkes found the broken part, but had no replacement. He was clever enough to whittle out a part out of tough white oak, and got the timepiece running. He went up on his fee, and asked thirty cents. The customer didn't have thirty cents, but paid off by giving him a pig. The pig turned out to be blind, but Wilkes cared for the animal, and it weighed 200 pounds when butchered.

He walked endless miles, seeking work to repair watches and clocks. Not much was available. One man did offer him twenty cents per day to burn brush. As Wilkes worked, he saved his money, and invested in repair tools and equipment. When he was 18 years old, he gathered his tools together, bought a table for fifty cents and rented a shop space in Lynchburg. But work and money was scarce, and soon he was picking up odd jobs, including work- ing on an addition to a big store on Main Street, Lynchburg. But, Ap- pomattox was his home county, and he returned, and set up his career in this area. He married and estab- lished a home. Once he was able to buy the site where he had spent his one day in school, In 1919, he came to the present town of Appomattox. He set up a shop in the corner of (days Barber Shop, located on the site of the present Robinson Furni- ture Store building. Then he moved over to the present H. C. Babcock Store and stayed in business there for 29 years. The first two years he had his shop on the ground floor, but then moved upstairs. His jewelry re- pair shop expanded and he added a nice line of retail items.

Mr. Wilkes was a good business man, and had varying enterprises going. His wife has always been ac- tive in gardening and plants. Once he bought a horse for $65.00. It took him seven years to pay for the horse, and the day he paid the final $5.00 he sold the horse — for the same sum he had paid for it! But he profited by use of the horse for those seven years.

Then a fine thing happened. His daughter, Mabel (Mrs. J. G. Simp- son) was in the Appomattox High School. She liked to stay in her father's shop. One day there was a repair job, and the part to be re- paired was very small. Mabel said she would fix the part, and fix it she did. That started her on a career or assistant to her father. She just had a natural talent for jewelry and watch repair work She spent two years at a jewelry shop in Lynch- burg gaining added experience in the business, and then returned to work with and for her father.

In 1947, Mr. Wilkes bought a lot and built a modern jewelry store on Church Street, Appomattox. To- day it is a credit to the town and the area.

But it all started away back many years ago, when a lad, Lacy Morton Wilkes wanted to get ahead and to have a fine trade. Now, he has ar- rived at the fine age of eighty years and he is still on the job. Your writer salutes him as a fine citizen. Not just because of his 80th birth- day, but also because his life is an example and inspiration, and proves that hard work and thrifty management are very, very desirable qualit- ies in any generation. He notes that 1959 was a top year in his busi- ness.

A. H. S. Wins Over Amherst

Appomattox High Schoot got in- to the victory column Tuesday night, when its basketball team won from Amherst High School by a 51 to 35 tally. Randy Almond was the spearhead for the local quint, scor- ing 29 points. In the preliminary game, A. H. S. girls added to their fine record by winning 38 to 24 over the Amherst girls' team.

Big Planting Pine Seedlings

A total of 1,663,900 loblolly pines were planted in Appomattox County in the 1958-59 period.

This past year, as in former years, the Virginia Division of Forestry has grown forest tree seedlings in its two nurseries, one near Charlottes- ville, and the other near Richmond in New Kent County. These seed- lings, mostly pine, are grown as a service to the landowners of Vir- ginia and are available at a nom- inal charge.

In Appomattox County, the news is that in addition to the 1,663,900 loblolly pine seedlings, there also were planted 2,000 black walnut; 6,000 white pine and 5,000 yellow poplar.

Total number of seedlings deliv- ered to be planted in Appo- mattox County as of January 1, 1960, included 100,000 seedlings

This record compares most favor- ably with the record in surrounding counties in this area.

Any drive through the rural part of Appomattox County will reveal a tremendous planting of seedlings, and this indicates that forestry will continue to be a major industry in this county in the years ahead.

Science urged to attack causes of tooth decay.

Rail and truck loading is above 1958 level.

Five Deaths On Highways Here in 1959

The year 1959 went into the re- cord books showing Appamattox County with five highway deaths for the twelve months. This was a bit higher than the normal pattern for the county, and the total was made top-heavy by three July 4 deaths.

The record, as reported by local State Police headquarters:

1. William Broxton Page, Januar 25, 1959.
2. Ralph Eugene Simpson, June 8.
3. Jack Wesley Hausler, July 4.
4. Helen M. Hausler, July 4.
5. David Randolph Pettyjohn, July 4.

Dudley To Review Book

Mr. William C. Dudley will review the book, "Masters of Deceit," by J. Edgar Hoover, for members of the American Legion Auxiliary at the regular meeting on Monday night, January 11 at the County Library, at 8:00 o'clock. The program is being presented by the National Security Department, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Shearer Rob- ertson. It has been strongly suggest- ed that every American should read this book, and everyone is most cor- dially invited to the Legion Home on Monday night to share in this op- portunity to hear Mr. Dudley review this great book. Members of the American Legion Post 104 have been issued a special invitation to be pre- sent.

LIST PLANS FOR ANNUAL MARCH OF DIMES

The March of Dimes Drive started January 1st. H. W. Conner, Appo- mattox County Campaign Director, announced the following list of community directors and activity chairmen:

Mr. J. W. Flood, business and in- dividuals.

Mr. Earl Smith, white schools,

Mrs. Mozella Price, Colored Schools and Churches.

Mr. C. W. Smith, White Churches.

Mrs. Crawford Davidson, Mothers March.

Jaycettes: Distribution and Col- lection of Coin Collectors: Mrs. Ken- neth Coleman, Pres.

Mr. Earl Agee, Campaign Treas- urer.

In addition to the research and rehabilitation programs in connec- tion with the polio campaign, this money will be used in the fight against birth defects, arthritis, and virus diseases.

Thursday, January 28, is National Mother's March Night, It is hoped that this year's drive will be even more successful than those in the past. The need is still great.

REGULATIONS ON FEED WHEAT PROGRAM

Appomattox County farmers are reminded that the feed wheat pro- gram again will be in operation in 1960. Under this program any farm- er who signs an agreement with the Agricultural Stabilization and Con- servation Committee may produce as much as 30 acres of wheat for on farm use regardless of the size of his farm allotment.

ASC Chairman Lewis pointed out that any farmer who has over- planted his 1960 wheat allotment by signing a feed wheat agreement. Such excess farmers may apply at the county office within 15 days of the date of this notice.

Under the feeder wheat pro- gram, Mr. Lewis said, farmers a- gree to use the entire amount of wheat produced for feed, seed, or human use on the farm on which the wheat is produced. None of the wheat may be removed from the farm except for processing, and none may be sold or bartered.

If any condition of the feed wheat exemption agreement is viola- ted, the agreement becomes null and void, and the producer and the farm will become subject to the market- ing quota regulations.

November imports rose by 7 per cent.

U. S. to lease offshore oil, gas tracts.

Canneries Close Season With Excellent Processing Record

A HAND FOR NEW YOUNG FARMER OFFICERS

Above: Mr. W. C. Dudley, Area Supervisor of Vocational Agricultur congratulates the 1960 officers of Appomattox Young Farmers Associa- tion. From left to right are: Mr. W. C. Dudley; president Fred Jones; vice-president, Richard Kuantz; sec- retary Gerald Blanks; and reporter, Elantha Drinkard. (Photo by E. Drinkard.

Appomattox's two community can- neries closed the week before Christ- mas after a successful six month's canning season. The two canneries located at Appomattox and Pamplin canned over 56,060 cans of fruits, vegetables and meats. This was not up to the 1958 record when over 70,000 cans were put up. However, in view of the weather conditions which existed during much of the growing season, the operators feel that this is an impressive record.

A breakdown of the records show that the Appomattox cannery put up 40,558 cans, which included 30,674 No. 3, or quart cans, and 10,284 No. 2's or pint cans. Also at Appomattox, 1 800 pounds of veget- ables and fruits were prepared for freezing, 2,401 pounds of sausage ground and 10,122 pounds of lard rendered. Patrons using the cannery this season numbered 572.

The Pamplin cannery put up 16,- 808 cans. This included 3,410 No. 2 or pint cans, and 13,398 No. 3's, or quart cans. In addition, 5,034 pounds of lard were rendered and 7,644 pounds of sausage ground. Pa- trons using the Pamplin cannery numbered 295, which was nine less than the previous year.

The two canneries are operated by the Appomattox County School Board, through the Department of Vocational Agriculture and the De- partment of Home Economics in the Appomattox County High School.

Supervision and maintenance were provided by home economics in- structors, Mrs. Madeline Thomas and Mrs. Lucy Green, and by Vocational Agriculture instructors, R. N. Ashworth, W. L. Motley, and H. B. Pack. Day to day operation was supervised by Mrs. Emma Lemon in the Appomattox cannery, and by Mrs. A. R. Southall in the Pamplin cannery.

Veterinarian To Be Speaker

Dr. Calvin E. Sevy, local vet- erinarian, will discuss the topic "Controlling Parasites of Cattle" at a meeting to be held in the Vo- cational Agriculture Building, Tues- day January 12 at 7:30 p. m. This meeting is sponsored by the Ap- pomattox Young Farmers Club and is open to all interested farmers. Dr. Sevy moved into Appomattox County to begin practicising vet- erinary medicine last June. He an- nounced that this meeting will be primarily a question and answer type of discussion. He plans to be- gin with Controlling parasites on and in beef cattle and possibly move on from there.

This open meeting will also be the first regular meeting of the Ap- pomattox Young Farmers' Club for 1960. This is primarily an educa- tional association for young farmers between the ages of 18 and 35. All farmers within thois age group are invited to attend and to join this organization. Each month at its meetings some phase of agri- culture or some improved practice in farming is presented to the group.

Officers for this organization for 1960 are as follows: president, Fred Jones; vice - president, Richard Krantz; secretary, Gerald Blanks; treasurer, Cecil Wooldridge; and re- porter, Elantha Drinkard. Bill Wil- liamson is immediate past president and a member of executive committ- tee, W. L. Motley, vocational agri- culture instructor, is advisor to the group. Regular meetings are held the second Tuesday night of each month in the Vocational Agricul- ture Building of Appomattox High School, Appomattox, Virginia.

SOIL SAMPLING IS BIG BUSINESS

Soil sampling is becoming a size- able business in Virginia.

W. W. Lewis, agronomist at VPI, reports that during the year 1959, Virginia farmers sent in 73,324 samples of soils from their fields to be tested, a 39 per cent increase over the year before.

A soil test, Lewis explains, helps determine the fertilizer and lime needs for the production of crops, and farming can't be really efficient without such a test.

The testing is a service of the Agricultural Extension Service at VPI. County agents can supply soil boxes, record sheets, and directions for taking and mailing the soil samples.

Peak months last year in the VPI testing laboratories were January, when 15,559 samples were tested; February, when 12,944 samples were tested, and March, when 12,017 samples were tested.

Top county in the number of samples sent for testing was Car- roll, with 2,551. Others in the top 10 were: Pittsylvania, 2,623; Augusta, 2,830; Bedford, 2,069; Southampton, 1,918; Franklin, 1,- 666; Frederick and Floyd, with 1,618 each; Washington with 1,582; and Fauquier, 1,490. Twenty-three counties topped the 1,000 mark.

Auto output is expected to show 32 per cent rise.

Subscription rate: $2.00 a year; payable in advance.

Hunting Season About at End

The general hunting season is rapidly running out. The turkey sea- son ends January 15. The duck season ends tomorrow, Jan. 8. Rabbit and Raccoon seasons end January 30. The deer hunting came to an end on January 5.

Leat Markets Now Open

Dark tobacco markets re-opened this week after the holiday season. Sales have been fairly heavy this week, with the price average hovering around the norm of $40.00 per hundredweight. Sales will continue the first four days of each week.

Oakville School Lunch Menu

Jan. 11: Meat loaf, pinto beans, apple sauce, ginger bread, hot bis- cuits, butter and milk.

Jan. 12: Peanut butter sandwich, vegetable soup, crackers, an apple, butter and milk,

Jan. 13: Cheese sandwich, string beans, mashed potatoes, purple plums, cookies, yeast biscuits, but- ter and milk.

Jan. 14: Hot hog on roll, cole slaw, beans, apple, butter and milk.

Jan. 15: Sausage, boiled potatoes, celery and carrot sticks, pineapple upside down cake, corn bread, but- ter and milk.

First Sizeable Snow

Appomattox got its first sizeable snow of the season Tuesday night. A potential 4 inches of snow blank- eted the county, but the temperature did not dip and the result was a beautiful, but not too deep, white- ness. All roads were easily acces- sible to traffic. The snowfall began about 6 P. M. Tuesday and contin- ued until about 6 A. M. Wednesday, but melting almost kept up with the fall. Shedy traffic conditions resulted.

Police Shout For Police

Fort Worth, Texas.- Embarassed Texas state police had to ask for help from Fort Worth police. The occasion was the theft of $28 in drivers' license fees from the office of the highway patrol.

Morocco asks for French and Spanish withdrawal.